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13 FEB 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Executive Director
Deputy Director for Operations

FROM: Clair E. George
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Annual Report to Intelligence Committees on
Protection of Identities of "Covert Agents"

1. Attached for your signature is a letter to Bud McFarlane transmitting information on measures being undertaken to protect the identities of our "covert agents" which is required to be sent by you to the President for his use in submitting an annual report to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

2. As you will recall, the submission of an annual report was a compromise reached during the debate over possible use of

25X1

/s/ Clair E. George
Clair E. George

Attachment

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KAD:csH (24 January/10 February 1984)

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

84-811

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14 FEB 1984

The Honorable Robert C. McFarlane
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McFarlane:

The Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1982 requires that the President annually submit to the intelligence oversight committees of Congress a "report on measures to protect the identities of covert agents, and on any other matter relevant to the protection of the identities of covert agents." As this report is to be based on information from the Director of Central Intelligence, I have enclosed a generalized report as to the activities which have been undertaken in this regard since our first Annual Report in 1983. While the written report has been kept brief, we noted our willingness to provide greater detail to the Members in personal meetings.

Sincerely,

75/ John N. McMahon

John N. McMahon
Acting Director of Central Intelligence

Enclosure

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ANNUAL REPORT ON MEASURES TO PROTECT
THE IDENTITIES OF COVERT AGENTS

Enactment by Congress of the Intelligence Identities Protection Act in 1982 continues to be the most effective measure taken to date to protect the identity of our intelligence officers from purposeful unauthorized disclosure. Those groups of individuals that had earlier engaged in a pattern of public exposures of alleged CIA personnel have not resumed the practice. There are indications -- albeit inconclusive -- that some of the individuals have carried on their effort via third parties to effect exposures outside the jurisdiction of that law. In retrospect it is often difficult to distinguish in the end result between the degree of effectiveness of these individual efforts and those of hostile foreign intelligence services. Public exposures abroad are becoming less accurate with the passage of time as the effectiveness of improving cover techniques begin to be felt, the corps of new, previously unexposed personnel being posted abroad increases, domestic based media refrains from publication of identities, and the initial data base used by hostile persons and services becomes increasingly stale from lack of current input.

The ever present threat posed by such hostile entities has been augmented, especially during the past year, by escalating terrorism directed at official establishments, including cover installations. Indications are that individually-targeted terrorist acts will increase at least in some areas, and the need for identity protection will be even more critical. Thus, CIA, FBI and DOD continue their search to improve methods of concealing and protecting identities. Accomplishments during 1983 included successful initiatives to

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Much of the planning for improvements during 1984 consists of administrative and technical changes to existing mechanisms. I am advised that the CIA would be happy to brief Committee members on the details concerning these changes or on any other aspect of this report.

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